

Israeli police guard Orient House

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Hundreds of Israeli police Tuesday took up positions guarding the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Jerusalem to prevent clashes with Jewish settlers who planned to protest the PLO's presence. Police rejected a request from settlers to stage a large-scale protest after two Israelis were shot to death in the occupied West Bank last week in an attack claimed by militants. Israel's supreme court upheld the right of police to limit the size of the demonstration to about 25 people. Target of the protest was the Orient House, seat of the PLO leaders who are drawing up plans for Palestinian self-rule once Israel withdraws from Jenin and the Gaza Strip under the Israel-PLO accord signed Sept. 13. Settler spokesman Shai Bazzak said the court decision was influenced by police intelligence that there was a possibility that Arabs would attack the settlers or that extremist Jews would try to damage the PLO building.

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King receives British MP

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received at the Royal Court member of the British House of Commons Greville Janner who arrived in Amman Monday on a several-day visit to Jordan. King Hussein and the British parliamentarian discussed regional and international issues and the latest developments in the Middle East peace process.

Libya's exiled prince slams regime

AMMAN (R) — Libya's exiled crown prince said on Tuesday he believed the Tripoli government was behind the disappearance of former Libyan foreign minister Mansour Kikha in Cairo two weeks ago. "Kikha's disappearance in such a brutal way will certainly prod us to increase our solidarity to bring down the (Libyan) regime," Mohammad Al Hasan Al Ridha Al Sanusi said in an interview. But Sanusi, a 31-year-old member of Libya's former ruling family who himself went into exile in 1988, said he had no proof.

PKK denies rumours of Ocalan killing

ANKARA (AFP) — The leader of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), Abdullah Ocalan, was rumoured to have been murdered in Syria, his country of residence, but a spokesman for the rebel leader dismissed the reports. Interior Minister Nihat Menitse said in a telephone interview with state television that reports that Mr. Ocalan might have been killed or wounded had reached Ankara, but that it had not yet been possible to confirm the truth of them.

77,000 Jews went to Israel in 1993

TEL AVIV (AFP) — About 77,000 immigrants settled in Israel during 1993, almost the same number as the previous year, the Jewish Agency announced on Tuesday. Simcha Dinitz, head of the para-governmental body, said 65,000 of the newcomers were from the former Soviet Union, where another 1.4 million Jews still live. Last year saw 76,500 arrivals. Mr. Dinitz predicted in a statement that another 500,000 Jews would arrive in Israel by the year 2000, "fulfilling the Zionist dream" of pushing the Israeli population beyond six million people. "Israel at the end of the present decade would become the largest concentration of Jews in the world," he said.

FIS to continue armed struggle

PARIS (AFP) — The underground leadership of Algerian Islamic fundamentalists called for continued armed struggle against the country's military-backed government in a communiqué received here Tuesday. The communiqué, dated Dec. 22, was signed by Abdellatif Radjani, information chief of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). Mr. Radjani has been in hiding in Algeria for the past two years. The communiqué appeared to be a response to government calls for Islamic leaders to take part in negotiations to resolve the crisis provoked by the cancellation of legislative elections that the FIS appeared set to win two years ago. Mr. Radjani called on "fighters to continue their jihad (holy war), for God has promised victory to the nation of the jihad and paradise for the martyrs of the jihad."

75 journalists died violent deaths in '93

BRUSSELS (R) — At least 75 journalists were killed while on assignment in 1993, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) said. Describing 1993 as "one of the bloodiest years on record," IFJ General Secretary Arden White said in a statement that his organisation had recorded at least 75 confirmed cases of violent death, some in horrifying circumstances of reporters, editors and broadcasters.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation



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Palestinian boys throw stones at Israeli soldiers in Ramallah on Tuesday during a Fatah day (officially Jan. 1) demonstration (AFP photo)

Self-rule talks inch ahead; no word on course

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) met for a second day Tuesday to try to break the deadlock on issues that have delayed an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank area of Jericho.

Mr. Peres and the chief Palestinian negotiator, Mahmoud Abbas, signed the breakthrough agreement in September, setting Dec. 13 as the deadline for Israel to start withdrawing from Gaza and Jericho and give limited self-rule to the Palestinians.

The essence of the disputes is that Israel fears the PLO is interpreting self-rule as the start of an independent Palestinian state.

Some PLO officials have begun to speak of the Israeli pullout from the overcrowded, poverty-stricken Gaza Strip and the Jericho area in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 242.

But be added: "We are in the middle of negotiations and we must be patient enough to wait as long as the evening time. In the evening time we will be much better informed about our progress."

Asked whether the talks would continue, he said: "As long as necessary. As long as our staying here is worthwhile, we will stay."

"I don't want to create expectations, either too high or too low, because this is not helpful," he added. "Since progress is still cooking, I have not yet been able to taste it."

Egypt said there may be a breakthrough soon on Palestinian autonomy.

"We hope they will be able to inform us of their success at the end of the day," said Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa.

"We hope they will finish today, otherwise the two sides will continue the negotiations on Wednesday," Mr. Musa said.

Another source said earlier Israel had made new concessions on the major issues but the Palestinians had not yet responded.

New proposals had been presented by both sides, which may "enable the differences to be resolved," he said, following talks between his Israeli counterpart Shimon Peres and Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak.

The president was to meet the PLO delegation later Tuesday, on the second day of the latest round of autonomy negotiations.

Palestinian officials also refused to comment on the progress of the talks, which have reached an impasse over the boundaries for the Jericho district, security for Jewish settlements in Gaza and control of international crossing points.

Egyptian diplomats said that by warning the talks could still take "two weeks or two months." Mr. Peres sent the PLO a clear message before they resumed that Israel would not lose out if they proved fruitless.

Mr. Peres later praised Egypt, the only Arab state to have signed peace with Israel, for its mediation role.

"Egypt is not only the venue of the negotiations but it plays a role behind the scenes to facilitate the negotiations and narrow the differences between the two parties," he said.

Fariz appointed director of JTV

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Tuesday appointed Zeid Fariz as assistant director general of Radio and Television Corporation, and director of the Jordan Satellite Channel.

Results issued by the central electoral commission showed overall turnout was 55.55 per cent of eligible voters and the "yes" vote was 57.44 per cent.

"We can't accept a document which has been passed by less than one third of the vote. Two-thirds of the voters either did not vote or voted against it," Mr. Ilyukhin said.

The Communist Party will be the third largest single party in the Duma with about 50 seats. It lies behind the extreme nationalist Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR) or Vladimir Zhirinovsky and the main pro-reform bloc, Russia's Federation.

The communist electoral campaign was built round attacks on the constitution, describing it as a "bonapartist" charter that would hand Mr. Yeltsin dictatorial powers.

Arafat said to expect Israeli withdrawal by mid-January

DUBAI (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat told Yemeni leaders he expects Israel to start withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and Jericho by mid-January, a Palestinian official said on Tuesday.

"He (Arafat) believes the Israeli withdrawal could start by mid-January and the implementation of the (Sept. 13) accord would start," the PLO's Yemen envoy, Yahia Rabah, told Reuters by telephone.

He said Mr. Arafat, who arrived in Sanaa on Monday, briefed Yemeni leaders on the latest developments in the PLO-Israel talks and the difficulties still to be resolved.

"The president (Arafat) hangs a lot of hope on the (Cairo) talks to resolve differences and exit from the deadlock to implement the agreement," said Mr. Rabah, describing Mr. Arafat's talks with Yemeni leaders.

Israel and the PLO continued talks in Cairo Tuesday aimed at resolving disputes delaying the Israeli withdrawal but PLO negotiator there said the gap between the two sides remained.

Mr. Rabah said Mr. Arafat told Yemeni leaders he expects "these obstacles to be resolved in Cairo and that the implementation of the agreement will not be delayed by too long."

Mr. Arafat explained the differences between the PLO and Israel "but efforts are continuing" to resolve them, Mr. Rabah added.

PLO negotiator Yasser Abed-Rabbo told Reuters in Cairo, "we exchanged our views and we did not start negotiating any compromise. The main thing is that we still feel that the gap is there."

The Israeli withdrawal which was due to start on Dec. 13 is being delayed by disputes over control of border crossings between Egypt and Gaza and between Jordan and the West Bank town of Jericho.

The two sides have yet to agree on the size of the Jericho area and security arrangements for Jewish settlements in Gaza.

Mr. Rabah said that Mr. Arafat stressed that control over border crossings was a

main Palestinian demand. "We (Palestinians) regard this issue to be of utmost importance," Mr. Rabah added.

Intensive private PLO-Israel talks in Norway and France in the past few days have failed to break the deadlock and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres bluntly warned the PLO before heading to the Cairo talks not to expect any Israeli concessions.

"I hope very much that Arafat will climb down from his tree, because I am not bringing anything new," he told Yedioth Ahronot newspaper.

The official Yemeni news agency SABA said Mr. Arafat held talks with President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice-

President Ali Salem Al Beidi, who have been in dispute since August over political and economic reforms in the country, the north and south of which were unit in May 1990.

SABA quoted Mr. Arafat as saying the talks focused on the "need to safeguard Yemeni unity."

In September Mr. Arafat made an abortive attempt to reconcile the two Yemeni leaders.

Mr. Beidi, a southerner, has said he will meet Mr. Saleh to resolve the crisis only if the president agrees to grant more regional autonomy.

(Continued on page 5)



A Palestinian boy is arrested after a stone-throwing protest in Ramallah on Tuesday (AFP photo)

Russian Communists challenge Yeltsin's charter

MOSCOW (R) — A Communist Party deputy to the new Russian parliament accused authorities Tuesday of rigging the ballot in this month's referendum on President Boris Yeltsin's constitution.

Signalling a renewed battle over Mr. Yeltsin's national charter when the new parliament opens next month, the deputy, Viktor Ilyukhin, said his party would fight to get it redrawn.

Mr. Yeltsin's camp has declared victory in the Dec. 12 people's vote on a post-Soviet draft constitution that will give the president sweeping powers over the new legislature.

The referendum on the draft constitution was decided by a straight majority of those who turned out — as opposed to a majority of the electorate. The only pre-condition was that at least 50 per cent of the electorate took part in the process.

Results issued by the central electoral commission showed overall turnout was 55.55 per cent of eligible voters and the "yes" vote was 57.44 per cent.

"We can't accept a document which has been passed by less than one third of the vote. Two-thirds of the voters either did not vote or voted against it," Mr. Ilyukhin said.

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The communist electoral campaign was built round attacks on the constitution, describing it as a "bonapartist" charter that would hand Mr. Yeltsin dictatorial powers.

Mr. Ilyukhin earned a reputation for controversy during the Kremlin rule of Mikhail Gorbachev when he opened a law suit against the then Soviet president for allowing the break-up of the Soviet Union.

He was immediately sacked from his job in the Soviet prosecutor's office.

Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov, speaking at the same news conference, would not be drawn on which political partners his party would team up within the new parliament, saying it would cooperate with all constructive forces.

Mr. Zyuganov had surprisingly warm words for Mr. Zhirinovsky's LDPR party saying it had "talented managers, very clever journalists and highly-qualified lawyers."

But he was scathing about Russia's Choice, headed by radical economic chief Yegor Gaidar, dismissing it as a party which represented "only executive power based on corporate interest," which was doomed to split.

He said his party was still waiting to hear from the government of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin about its economic programme and "proposals on how to pull the country out of crisis."

But he made clear he violently opposed Mr. Yeltsin's determination to keep Mr. Gaidar, architect of most of the sweeping economic reforms in office. "Our attitude towards the pseudo-reforms, in office. "Our attitude towards the pseudo-reformer has not changed..." he said.

Israeli planes and Hizbullah rockets in battle in S. Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes on Tuesday blasted bases of Hizbullah, which hit back with a shower of rockets, as Israel pinned the blame on Syria for the flare-up in southern Lebanon.

Katyushas also crashed into Aishiyeh in the central sector of the zone and Sojob on the edge of the buffer strip.

Witnesses from a distance in Nabatiyeh said they saw dust and smoke shrouding the stricken targets after the first two assaults.

Newsmen and photographers who tried to reach Mitla and Loweizel were turned back by Hizbullah guerrillas, totting AK-47 assault rifles and shoulder-fired rocket-propelled grenades.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the Katyusha attacks but made no mention of the casualties.

At least three people were wounded in the air strikes on the heights, southeast of the port city of Sidon, according to police. But Hizbullah did not report any casualties in its ranks.

Israeli forces in the "security zone" meanwhile fought a day-long artillery duel with Hizbullah. Guerrillas focused their rocket attacks on Marjayoun, where the Israeli army is headquartered.

An Israeli army spokesman said earlier that the warplanes attacked "a training and departure base used for Hizbullah operations in the Jabal Safi region." All the planes returned safely to base.

Guerrillas fired 30 Katyusha rockets and heavy calibre shells at Marjayoun, where Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), also has its headquarters.

The rockets and shells blasted huge craters in the town's main street, punctured a water main and damaged power lines.

Panic-stricken residents sought shelter in basements.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, the armed wing of Hizbullah, claimed responsibility.

Iraqi, U.N. to discuss embargo next month

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqi and U.N. officials are to meet in New York in mid-January for talks on the embargo in force against Iraq since 1990, Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said Tuesday.

"The Iraqi negotiators will have several meetings in New York" with the U.N. commission in charge of disarming post-war Iraq, Mr. Aziz said, quoted in Baghdad newspaper.

Meanwhile, Iraq has stepped up its search for oil and gas in a bid to increase future supplies, Iraqi Oil Minister Safi Hadi Jawad said Monday.

He said 1,300 engineers and experts had already started explorations and several bores had been sunk with "remarkable results despite the lack of necessary material because of the embargo," according to the official agency Iraqi News Agency.

Six teams of seismologists have been charged with studying the southern regions of Basrah and Misrata in the east, Anbar in the west and Salahuddin and Nineveh in the north.

Studies will also be carried out in the southeastern and western desert areas.

Iraq has huge oil reserves, second only to Saudi Arabia, which Baghdad estimated at 100 billion barrels in May.

Before its invasion of Kuwait, Iraq produced 3.14 million barrels a day.

In May it announced that it wanted to double its production capacity by 2000 to up to 6.5 million barrels a day.

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Saudi Shura council meets today

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's appointed Shura (consultative) council will convene Wednesday, official Saudi sources in Riyadh said on Tuesday.

One told Reuters by telephone the all-male 60-member council will take the oath of office after which King Fahd will attend the council's first meeting on Wednesday.

It is the first representative assembly in almost 60 years to give ordinary Saudi citizens a say in the affairs of the oil-rich kingdom.

The council was appointed in August as part of political reforms promised by the conservative kingdom more than 21 years ago.

Diplomats say the deployment of hundreds of thousands of American and other non-Muslim soldiers in Saudi Arabia, home to Islam's holiest shrines, after Iraq occupied Kuwait ended Riyadh's isolation and accelerated the re-

forms.

The king appointed the Shura in August, a month later he named members of regional assemblies, carrying out reforms in the conservative kingdom first promised some 21 years ago.

The representatives are not direct descendants of King Fahd's father, the late King Abdul Aziz who created Saudi Arabia in 1932.

Senior members of the Saudi royal family traditionally control the kingdom's administration and its vast oil wealth, huge foreign assets and military and internal security forces.

Diplomats say the regional assemblies are expected to meet after the Shura, which will hold its first session in a specially built building in Riyadh.

A royal decree calling for the Shura to convene has not been issued but journalists in

Riyadh said they had been invited to a reception on Tuesday night to mark the Shura's first session, expected to convene the following day.

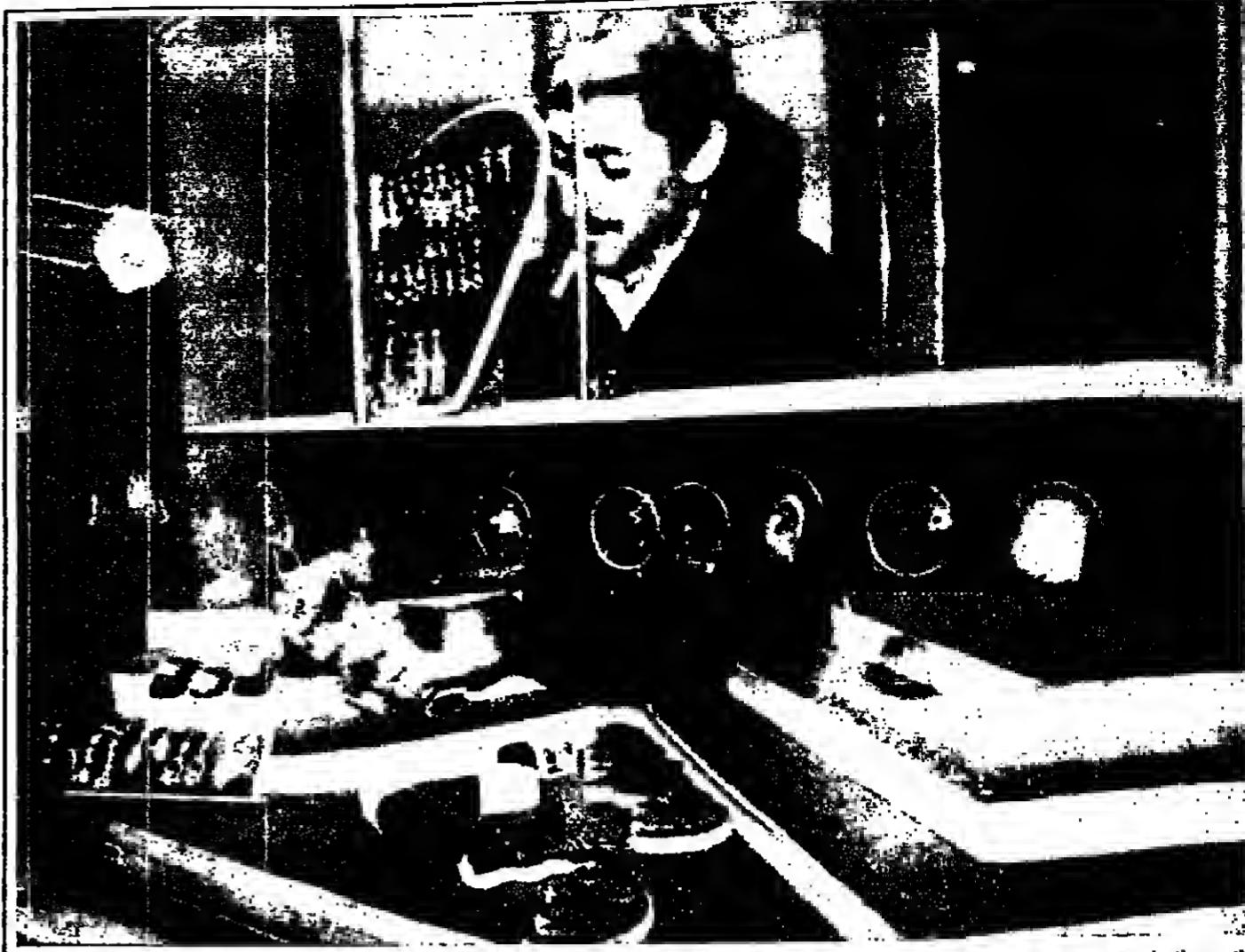
Diplomats say Saudi Arabia's Western allies are glad to see Riyadh take steps towards implementing reforms after years of isolation.

U.S. President Bill Clinton sent the king a letter in August welcoming the move "as an important step to widen popular participation in the government, which conforms with your history and traditions."

Diplomats in the kingdom say some of the rules governing the Shura fall short of Western concepts of democracy, but they say forming it represents a big move forward.

"It is an important first step and the thing to do is to focus on this progressive move," said one. "Every country has its own version of democracy and no one has the 'perfect' formula."

Kuwait, where women are not allowed to vote, is the only Gulf Arab state with an elected parliament. The opposition dominates the assembly. Its neighbours have consultative councils.



ROBBERY: A plainclothes policeman picks up jewelry left in the showcase of a gold shop when a gunman burst into the store and opened fire, killing the owner and his brother and a client late Monday in the north Cairo suburb of Matarieh (AFP photo)

Jewish connection for Zhirinovsky, official says

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Ultra-nationalist Russian leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky was a militant in Soviet liberal Jewish circles before the collapse of the Soviet Union and had asked for an invitation to go to Israel, a top official in the Jewish Agency said Monday.

Baruch Gur, who was a member of the Israeli diplomatic mission in Moscow, told AFP: "In 1989 Vladimir Zhirinovsky was active in the Jewish organisation Shalom which grouped Jews of different backgrounds communists and refugees."

"At the time he said his father Wolf Zhirinovsky was a Jew, which was very plausible," said Mr. Gur whose agency is a para-governmental body in charge of welcoming immigrants.

Mr. Gur said the head of Russia's far-right Liberal Democratic Party had asked the Israeli authorities in 1983 to send him a fictitious invitation from relatives in Israel so that he could leave the Soviet Union.

The request said that his father was a Jew," Mr. Gur added.

More than one and a half million Soviet citizens of Jewish origin or claiming to be made similar requests to get out of the Soviet Union, he said.

In an interview on Israeli Television a year ago, Mr. Zhirinovsky, whose party came second in Russian parliamentary elections on Dec. 12, had denied that his father who died in 1946 was a Jew.

Mr. Zhirinovsky has been accused of being a vehement anti-Semite, a charge he has denied.

Israel's foreign ministry issued invitations to potential

immigrants as a way around a Soviet policy that permitted Jews to leave only for "family reunification."

Deborah Lipson, spokeswoman for the Soviet Zionist Forum, an immigrants group, said Mr. Zhirinovsky was sent an invitation in late 1983. She said his father was named "Wolf" — a common Jewish name in Russia — and former associates said Mr. Zhirinovsky told them his father was Jewish.

That may have been enough to have justified an invitation.

Mr. Zhirinovsky himself vehemently denied his father was Jewish to the associated press in Moscow.

"Never, never," he said. "My mother is Russian, my father is Russian, my wife is Russian, my son is Russian. Only Russian, all (my) family is Russian."

In the 1970s and 1980s, Israel received names of Jews interested in immigrating by letters smuggled or mailed from the Soviet Union. The government would then send out an invitation in the name of an Israeli with a similar last name to meet the reunification criterion, officials said.

Soviet emigration was only liberalized in July 1992.

Since 1989, nearly 473,000 people immigrated to the Jewish state from the former Soviet Union. Between 1967 and 1989, about 250,000 Soviet Jews emigrated.

The foreign ministry had no immediate comment when asked if any records were kept about potential applicants, such as Mr. Zhirinovsky.

Six years after expressing an interest in emigrating,

Mr. Zhirinovsky also was part of an effort to create Shalom, an umbrella group of Australian Jews upset

Tuesday demanded the government block an expected visit by Mr. Zhirinovsky.

A government spokesman said a member of Mr. Zhirinovsky's staff had sought a visa application form for him for a private trip to Sydney to visit relatives in early January.

The spokesman said the application had not yet been returned.

Officials earlier said they believed there would be no problem granting the visa. Mr. Zhirinovsky has a niece in Sydney.

But Jewish leaders said denying entry to Mr. Zhirinovsky would make it clear Australia did not endorse his views.

"Here is a man who is a self-confessed anti-Semitic and a fascist and who has threatened the world with a nuclear holocaust," Mark Leibler, president of the Zionist Federation of Australia, told the Sydney Morning Herald.

"Having the mummies is a dream for history," said the museum's mummy expert, Nasri Iskander, who has worked with the remains of ancient royalty for 20 years.

Mr. Pollard, who worked for navy intelligence in the mid-1980s, will be eligible for parole in 1995 after a decade behind bars. The Israeli government and Jewish groups have deemed Mr. Pollard's punishment too harsh and pressed Mr. Clinton for clemency.

State Department officials have also recommended that Mr. Pollard's sentence be reduced to help Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's peace efforts with the Palestinians.

Mr. Aspin, siding with military and intelligence officials who consider Mr. Pollard's breach of security too damaging to merit any leniency, told Mr. Clinton that Mr. Pollard would likely emigrate to Israel if released.

"Especially, if he leaves the country, Mr. Pollard would continue to present a risk of further damage to the nation," Mr. Aspin said.

Mr. Aspin also warned that Mr. Pollard's release would send the wrong message to would-be spies and might undermine Mr. Clinton's ability "to control and manage national security concerns."

During the interview, the cautious Mr. Rabin said, "I was the first prime minister of Israel that said I'm ready for a withdrawal of Israeli armed forces on the Golan Heights, which it occupied in 1967; Israel is waiting for Syria to make the first move before it provides details about its promised withdrawal.

During the interview, the cautious Mr. Rabin said, "I was the first prime minister of Israel that said I'm ready for a withdrawal of Israeli armed forces on the Golan Heights,"

Mr. Aspin said, "What will not negotiate is the geographic dimensions before I know for what kind of peace." — The Wall Street Journal.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rabin isn't

Aspin opposes leniency for Pollard

WASHINGTON (AP) — Outgoing Defense Secretary Les Aspin has advised President Bill Clinton in a letter not to show leniency to convicted spy Jonathan Pollard, the New York Times said Tuesday.

Mr. Aspin, who announced his resignation Dec. 15, said that Mr. Pollard had revealed state secrets in letters he wrote from jail since he was convicted of spying for Israel in 1985 and sentenced to life in prison.

According to the newspaper, Mr. Aspin opposed leniency for the former intelligence analyst on three grounds: It would undermine efforts to protect classified data his disclosures did grave damage to U.S. security and he had committed important secrets to memory.

A lawyer for Pollard told the newspaper neither he nor his client had ever been told the leakers violated national security, adding the charges violated Mr. Pollard's constitutional right to face his accusers.

"Since July 1989, he has included classified information in 14 of his letters...he clearly remembers classified information which he still has the ability to compromise," Mr. Aspin said in his letter dated Dec. 23.

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After more than a decade, ancient mummies being brought out again in Cairo

By Mimi Mann
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Egypt's royal mummies were once barred from public view to prevent tourists from ogling a national treasure. Now they're being put back on display to lure tourists frightened away by extremist attacks.

Antiquities officials said a select group of 11 pharaohs and queens, including famed Ramses II, could go on display as early as February inside a refurbished mummy room in Cairo's Egyptian museum.

The hope is that the mummies, among Egypt's greatest treasures, will again play a role as one of Egypt's top tourist draws, now that attacks by militants have badly hurt the vital tourism industry.

"Having the mummies is a dream for history," said the museum's mummy expert, Nasri Iskander, who has worked with the remains of ancient royalty for 20 years.

The royal mummies were last seen by the public in 1980, after a visit by Egypt's then-president, Anwar Sadat. He made an offhand remark that he did not think once-great kings should be treated as tourist curios.

"Year after year, it's the mummies tourists ask for," Mr. Iskander said.

Mohammad Salah, director of the Egyptian museum, said the mummies will be shown every respect when they go on display. Each has a specially designed case that takes into account the specific needs of the mummy, Egypt's climate

"I can't accept exposing the

remains of Egypt's pharaohs in exhibitions for people to view," Mr. Sadat said. "This is against the commandments of

the three religions — Islam, Christianity and Judaism."

Antiquities officials sealed

and conditions that existed inside the original tomb.

Before, mummies were displayed under bright lights. Now, subtle lighting will highlight only faces, hands and toes.

"Nobody thinks of the mummies bodies and skins," Mr. Salah said. "These are great personalities who played a great role in Egyptian history. They will be shown with the dignity they deserve for their place in history."

Mr. Iskander said visitors are enchanted when they face the mummies: "It's like when you meet a famous person, and you say, 'hey, aren't you so and so? I know you.'"

Egypt's royal mummies collection comprises 27 remains found in two caches late last century in southern Egypt.

Antic和平ists fearing for the mummies safety. Took them from their tombs, rewrapped them and hid them in two secret locations within royal burial grounds across the Nile from the ancient capital Thebes, now Luxor.

Twenty date from the New Kingdom, a renaissance of Egyptian might that began in 1530, B.C., the era when mummification techniques reached their peak.

Mr. Iskander made the difficult choice of which mummies should go on display first. He knew the collection must include Pharaoh Seti I and his son Ramses II because of their greatness. Also, Seti's mummy had six toes on each foot.

Amenophis I is included because he is the only mummy with original wrappings. Tutankhamun is there because his opened head and nose help visitors understand the steps in mummification. Ramses V's Mummy shows small scars.

Two favourites are sure to be the mummies of Pharaoh Segeoemre II, who ruled Egypt more than 3,500 years ago, and Queen Henutwi, who lived between 1070-945 B.C.

Senenmut is said to have died fighting the invading Hyksos. His mummy supports the legend. The skull is wracked with battle wounds. The right hand is frozen in a clutch, the mouth stilled in an agonizing scream.

Hentawi's mummy, Mr. Iskander's favourite, has a lovely plaited wig but was mutilated by embalmers trying to improve mummification techniques.

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Senenmut is said to have died fighting the invading Hyksos. His mummy supports the legend. The skull is wracked with battle wounds. The right hand is frozen in a clutch, the mouth stilled in an agonizing scream.

Hentawi's mummy, Mr. Iskander's favourite, has a lovely plaited wig but was mutilated by embalmers trying to improve mummification techniques.

Twenty date from the New Kingdom, a renaissance of Egyptian might that began in 1530, B.C., the era when mummification techniques reached their peak.

Mr. Iskander made the difficult choice of which mummies should go on display first. He knew the collection must include Pharaoh Seti I and his son Ramses II because of their greatness. Also, Seti's mummy had six toes on each foot.

Amenophis I is included because he is the only mummy with original wrappings. Tutankhamun is there because his opened head and nose help visitors understand the steps in mummification. Ramses V's Mummy shows small scars.

Two favourites are sure to be the mummies of Pharaoh Segeoemre II, who ruled Egypt more than 3,500 years ago, and Queen Henutwi, who lived between 1070-945 B.C.

Home News

Senate debates draft law on teachers' union

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper House of Parliament, Tuesday studied a draft law on the creation of a teachers' union now that the Lower House has approved it after the introduction of a number of amendments.

Meeting under the chairmanship of Ahmad Al Lawzi and in the presence of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Cabinet members, the Senate heard the views of several members, as well as Justice Minister Taher Hikmat.

Senator Ahmad Tarawneh, said that the draft law should be referred to the House's Judiciary Committee first, while Thouqan Hindawi said that the draft law should be referred to the educational committee as well.

Mudar Badran noted, that the Senate should not discuss the draft law in detail before it is scrutinised by the Higher Council for the interpretation of the Law because the council had earlier described the union's project as non-constitutional, requiring the approval of six members of the council. The justice minister said that the council has to discuss the concept of the draft law.

At the end of the discussion the House opted to refer the issue to the Senate's Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Tarawneh was appointed head of the Judiciary Committee while Marwan Humoud was elected rapporteur of the Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee.

Other topics discussed by the Senate included an education law of 1988, which will be referred to the Lower House to approve amendments to the law.



CROWN PRINCE IN IRBID: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday toured the Irbid Governorate and met with members of the governorate's executive and consultative councils. The Prince also laid the foundation stone for the Irbid Governorate city hall, the northern Jordan

Valley District building and Princess Badia's training hospital. Prince Hassan was accompanied on his tour by Interior Minister Salameh Hammoud, Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas and Public Works and Housing Minister Abdul Razzaq Tubaishat.

World Bank official satisfied with Jordan's implementation of reform

AMMAN (Petra) — The World Bank is satisfied with Jordan's economic performance over the past two years, when Jordan faced serious issues as a result of the Gulf crisis and the war's negative impact on the Kingdom, according to Mr. Ram Chopra, the World Bank's administrative director for the Near East and North Africa.

He said he had conveyed this message to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali in the course of discussing relations between the World Bank and the Jordanian government.

Describing the meeting as fruitful and the relations as extremely good, Mr. Chopra said it is hoped that cooperation would continue.

He said that Jordan had been showing good performance in implementing the economic reform programme, despite the fact that the Kingdom

faced a flood of refugees from the Gulf region since the start of the Gulf crisis, especially the Jordanian expatriates, forcing the government to find jobs and increase funds to provide immediate aid to the returnees.

He stressed that Jordan has succeeded in 1992 to attain an excellent economic growth, especially in the construction field, while foreign trade tremendously improved, largely due to Jordan's active role in the Middle East peace process. He said that Jordan was very brave in dealing with the numerous issues that have faced the country.

Mr. Chopra added that the government deserves praise for its performance and for efforts to inform its public administration system, because its performance in this respect helped cutting down on bureaucracy. The World Bank is reassured of the government's drive to retain good contacts and cooperate with the World Bank, said Mr. Chopra.

Referring to the peace process, Mr. Chopra stressed that Jordan would be facing other problems as a result of peace in the region, while being committed to aiding the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The World Bank official said Jordan has been playing a significant role, through its people's skill, to contribute to the regional development.

Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz attended the meeting.

Earlier Tuesday, the prime minister briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of the one-day visit by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaf to Jordan. He said that the visit was dedicated to discussing the latest Syrian-Jordanian coordination in the peace process.

Germany offers JD 9.5 m debt relief

By Suhair Obeidat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Germany is writing off DM 20 million (JD 9.5 million) of Jordan's debts bringing the total of debt relief Bonn extended to Amman this year to DM 29.5 million (JD 13.5 million), a senior German diplomat said Tuesday.

Matthias Meyer, counsellor at the German embassy, said that the offer, presented to the Jordanian government Monday, stipulates that 50 per cent of the amount to be written off should be spent in Jordanian dinars on environmental projects to be suggested by Jordan.

This is the second write-off this year. In October, Germany decided to relieve Jordan of DM 9.5 million (JD 4.1 million).

This brings down Jordan's debt to Germany to DM 492.5 million (JD 213 million). "The total debt was DM 523 million (JD 234 million)."

Mr. Meyer said that a debt rescheduling agreement,

covering July 1993 to February 1994 was recently accepted by both sides and could be signed very early 1994 in Bonn by the German minister of finance and Jordan's ambassador there.

"This arrangement brings the total of rescheduled debts to DM 86 million (JD 41 million)," he said.

Mr. Meyer said that Jordan "has always been in the focus of our interest and is one of the largest recipients of German aid," stressing that Jordan "will not lose money to the interest of Palestinians, (rather) we want to strengthen Jordan's importance in the whole process."

He said that Germany is currently conducting negotiations with both Jordan and the Palestinians to "see what we can do together, because the Palestinians have to be helped in the beginning by all Arabs and Jordan has good institutions in all the areas we are dealing with."

Mr. Meyer said that a debt rescheduling agreement,

there would be more Jordanian involvement in the West Bank on the non-political side. "We don't want to make it political, but regarding environmental issues, we would like to establish an environmental authority in the West Bank to be arranged in cooperation with experts from Jordan and we could finance the training of the people."

In the absence of proper institutions (on the Palestinian side) to carry out the suggested projects, "there should be close cooperation between Jordanians, Palestinians, Israelis and donor countries," he said.

He said that Germany will continue to channel its aid to the Palestinians through Jordanian institutions. Current aid to Palestinian farmers in the West Bank is funnelled through the Amman Cairo Bank "and once branches of Jordanian banks are opened there, we will do it through them," he said.

German projects in the West

Bank include sewage systems in Bethlehem, support for the Cooperation Union in Nablus (which gives credit to small farmers), water treatment in Al Beereh and improvement of the water distribution in Ramallah.

"We recently got a licence to drill a well in Nablus and are planning a cleaning project in Gaza, by, for example, providing garbage trucks and finding a suitable dumping place," he said.

Mr. Meyer described the visit by Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat to Bonn earlier this month as "very successful. The German people were impressed with Arafat and the general mood towards him was open-minded."

He said that two prominent parliamentarians from the Christian Democratic Party (the ruling party) will visit Jordan in January to "study the economic and political situation in Jordan and discuss the possibilities of future economic projects between the Palestinians, Jordan and Germany."

Jordan holds off reopening banks branches in W. Bank

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government is holding off giving the green signal to commercial banks to reopen their branches in the occupied West Bank in response to a request for a delay from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), officials and banking sources said Tuesday.

They said the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) recently told the banks to await further instructions after informing them earlier this month to prepare the groundwork for reopening the branches, closed after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The PLO argument behind the request for a delay, according to the sources, was that the organisation's leadership was too preoccupied with thrashing out differences with Israel in the implementation of the Sept. 13 autonomy accord to review a draft economic accord with Jordan.

"Once the pressure goes down, Chairman (Yasser) Arafat could seriously look at the draft and move forward in ratifying it," said a Palestinian source.

At the same time, Jordan is also apprehensive that if a vacuum is left in the occupied territories, with no Arab monetary authority and banks, Israeli banks might try to exploit it at the expense of the Kingdom. One fourth to one third of Jordan's currency is in circulation among the

two million Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The request for the delay was conveyed to Jordan by the Palestinian ambassador in Amman, Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim.

Sources described as very cordial a meeting between Deputy Prime Minister Maan Abu Nowar and Mr. Abdul Rahim on Dec. 20 when the issue was discussed.

CBJ Governor Mohamad Saeed Al Nabulsi told Parliament members Monday that the government had not formally endorsed an agreement reached with Israel on reopening the branches.

Dr. Nabulsi refrained from commenting on the political dimensions of the issue and limited his comments to the technical, monetary aspects and policies.

The CBJ is planning to allow all the closed branches to reopen rather than initially allowing one branch of each of the seven or eight banks which used to operate in the West Bank.

The Jordan-Israel accord provides for CBJ control and supervision of the banks according to Jordanian laws and regulations.

The extent of Israeli role will be limited to granting an approval for licence applications which already have CBJ endorsement; the banks will be required to send periodic reports to the Bank of Israel.

Dr. Nabulsi has said that there is no linkage between the draft economic agreement between Jordan and the PLO and the reopening of the banks.

Negotiations between Jordan and Israel on reopening the banks began more than one year ago, much before Israel and the PLO worked out their secret Oslo accord which led to the Sept. 13 Declaration of Principles.

At the same time, analysts note that a Jordan move to reopen the banks, in line with the agreement with Israel while the Jordan-PLO draft accord remains unratified, might have negative effects on political coordination between Jordan and the organisation in the context of the peace process.

Palestinian economic planners in the occupied West Bank say that once the self-rule arrangement takes effect as and when Israel and the PLO settle their differences in the implementation of the Sept. 13 accord, Jordan will have to negotiate a separate banking agreement with the self-rule authority.

There was no explanation why the Kingdom will have to have a separate agreement since the draft economic accord with the PLO provides for CBJ control of the monetary and banking affairs in the occupied territories in coordination with the Palestinians.

No official was immediately available for comment.

Documentaries to help safeguard environment, local traditions

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

"ASE will produce the first 14 genuine marine documentary films throughout the region," she said.

Ms. Hanley said ASE's focus in the beginning was on the Gulf countries, but ASE decided to include Jordan, Egypt and Yemen because they all fall on sea shores which reflects a real marine life that should serve the documentary series.

"We added these countries because we found out that there is a lot of interest in the Far East for these countries and they all have similar culture," she said.

The package (the documentaries), she maintained, will give people an idea of the life in this region and will carry a positive image of this region.

We are going to present what is there in a positive way and we are going to be very sensitive of the Arab culture and what to show," she said.

Ms. Hanley stressed the importance of this documentary with its focus on preserving nature and marine life, with a different technique from other documentaries filmed in this region.

Furthermore, Ms. Hanley said the documentaries, which will be dubbed in different languages, will add a voice of concern from the Arab World towards the worldwide environmental movement.

Membership on the Advisory Committee is Her Royal Highness Princess Basma's second official U.N. assignment, after being appointed to serve as an Honorary Human Development Ambassador by the United Nations Development Programme in May this year.

It is intended that the cost of making and distributing these films be raised through sponsorship from the local and international business community, according to Ms. Hanley, who said she hoped some institutions in Jordan will help sponsor the project.

She added that several big companies have been a great asset to the programme, such as Omega watches, DHL, Gulf Air, and Panasonic.

The sponsorship could be in the form of cash or in-kind, such as boats from a local manufacturer, video equipment from a major international manufacturer, video equipment from a major international manufacturer, provisions from a local distributor.

Due to the costs being covered by this sponsorship, she said, ASE intends to distribute these films free of charge to all regional T.V. stations, local governments, ministries, such as information, education, tourism, universities, colleges and schools, to create a wide spread viewership.

According to Ms. Hanley, talks were held with Ministry of Tourism officials, and were successful.

"Ministry officials were very helpful, and I am planning to visit Petra, Aqaba, and the Dead Sea to get an idea of what needs to be included about Jordan," she said.

"I was favourably impressed by the infrastructure of the touristic sites and the city is very tidy and clean."

The first shots will be taken sometime next year, according to Ms. Hanley.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ The second exhibition of engineering books at the Jordan Engineers Association.
- ★ Exhibition on the 100th anniversary of the death of French novelist Guy De Maupassant at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Iraqi books at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by a number of Jordanian artists entitled "The Sixth Exhibition — Samples From The Contemporary Jordanian Art '93" at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition "Prints and Drawings of Fakurehissa Zeid" (1915-1991) until the 15th of January '94 at Darat al Funun of the Abdul Hamed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "Permanent" exhibition. (Tel. 643251/2).

CHRISTMAS BAARAS

- ★ Christmas bazaar at the Amman International Auto Exhibition/Airport Road.

FILM AND DRAMAS

- ★ Film entitled "Jesus" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m. (120 minutes).
- ★ Drama for children in Arabic entitled "The Question" at Haya Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.

SPORTS ROUND-UP

- ★ A one-hour programme featuring a condensation of the most popular games of the week with play-by-play announcement at the American Centre at 5:00 p.m.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Hassan condoles Eghzawi family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday visited the Eghzawi family in the Waqas town near Irbid, and conveyed to them His Majesty King Hussein's condolences over the death of Abdul Karim Eghzawi. Prince Hassan's visit to the town was part of a tour of the Irbid Governorate.

Jordanian dies in Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian citizen named Hamed Kamel Hamed died in Iraq, according to Public Security Department sources. The sources said they were told by the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad of the death of Hamed and asked his family and relatives to call at the PSD's Investigation and Criminal Department to arrange for bringing his body or burying him there, the sources said. The late Hamed was born in Osreen, in the occupied West Bank, and is known to the Osreen village Mukhtar Fawzi Said Mufleh, the sources added.

7 cars collide, 5 people injured

AMMAN (Petra) — Five people were injured in a car accident, along Mafraq-Amman road, involving seven cars. The accident was caused by a trailer which stopped suddenly in the middle of the street. Due to poor visibility on the road, a bus driving in the same direction hit the trailer and then five other cars collided in the back.

Ensour inspects work on highway

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razzaq Ensour Tuesday inspected work on the Amman-Jerash-Irbid highway project which started in 1988.

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A preview of Clinton's 1994 legislative battles

By Dr. James Zogby

AFTER HIS first year in office and enduring an unending parade of bruising battles and high-profile debates, President Bill Clinton will continue to define himself in 1994 as a new Democrat through another series of legislative struggles with Congress.

The first item on the agenda for 1994 is health care reform. During the speech he used to introduce his health care proposal, the president challenged Congress to pass a comprehensive health care reform plan by the end of 1994. As Mr. Clinton has already moved the legislation to Capitol Hill, it is up to the Congress now to pass it.

Of course, at every step along the way, there will be attempts to alter the Clinton proposal to suit various special interests, and the administration is prepared to monitor the entire process very closely and to apply pressure where they feel it's needed. Even as 1993 draws to a close, Mr. Clinton is meeting with doctors' groups and other health care providers and preparing the grass roots network he will need to lobby the Congress on his issue.

In this battle, Mr. Clinton will need to bring together traditional Democratic allies, the old Democratic coalition of organised labour and minorities. And this may be difficult.

Organised labour is still angry over the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and is trying to balance its need to support health care reform with its desire to show the president that he cannot take labour support for granted. The African American leadership is unhappy with Mr. Clinton over the orientation of his anti-crime package and wary of his upcoming welfare reform proposal.

Although both groups are traditional Democratic allies, and there are few Republicans who will champion their causes, they can be expected to extract the maximum amount of concessions from Mr. Clinton before health care finally comes to a vote next fall.

There is no disagreement over the fact that having more than 38 million Americans without health care is a serious problem, but there is plenty of disagreement over how to fix it. Traditional Republicans are in favour of very limited government involvement and universal access to coverage; while traditional Democrats are in favour of large-scale government involvement to guarantee universal coverage. Between these two groups, Mr. Clinton will be trying to form a consensus that includes as many of the traditional Democrats as possible.

But even as he appeases the elements on the Democratic left, Mr. Clinton will have to work to avoid antagonising the more conservative elements in his own party and the moderate Republicans because he will need votes from both groups to get his proposal passed. And, he is going to need to the votes of these groups to pass the other two major pieces of legislation the admin-



nistration will propose this year: welfare reform and the anti-crime package.

President Clinton held off from announcing the details of his welfare reform proposal, so he announced merely the simple principles of his plan. But even the way he articulated the principles stirred the political waters.

One of Mr. Clinton's most successful television advertisements during the 1992 campaign was the one in which he promised "to end welfare as we know it" and to "make welfare a second chance, not a way of life." As he enters the second year of his presidency, the president has reaffirmed those principles. As with health care, there is broad agreement that the welfare system needs to be fixed and that Mr. Clinton's principles are sound; but as soon as he moves beyond that point of agreement there will be a firestorm of criticism from the Democratic left.

Because the debate over welfare reform will be running concurrent to the health care reform debate, Mr. Clinton will have to manoeuvre carefully to make certain that in putting together his coalition to pass the one he doesn't alienate the coalition he will need to pass the other. And even as he balances these two difficult issues, Mr. Clinton will face an even more daunting task when the Congress begins to finalise the anti-crime package.

Even more than health care and welfare reform, there is a strong national consensus that the crime problem must be dealt with. Recent polls show that Americans rank crime and violence as their number one concern, and the president's anti-crime package — with its emphasis on building more jails, hiring more police and stiffening penalties — seems to be in line with the majority of the country.

But Mr. Clinton's proposal is not at all in line with the majority of his own party. As one Democratic activist complained: "Have you seen the president's crime bill? It's a Republican crime bill!" That comment illuminates one of the most important

dynamics to emerge in 1993: the fraying of the Democratic coalition.

Although the traditional Democratic alliance of labour, intellectuals and minorities was to some degree cobbled together by Clinton in 1992, his policies since then have re-exposed the rifts that for years have been a source of friction within the party. His new Democratic agenda has pleased neither the liberals nor the conservatives, and both are threatening to abandon him.

At the beginning of December, Mr. Clinton went back to speak at the conference of a group he helped found — the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC). The DLC is committed to moving the Democratic Party away from the liberal views it used to espouse and back towards a more centrist agenda. During his tenure as its chairman, Mr. Clinton helped to firmly establish the DLC as a major player in Democratic Party politics.

But the new DLC chairman, congressman Dave McCurdy, at the conference put the administration "on notice" that the DLC "will pressure the White House to a New Democratic agenda."

Mr. McCurdy said that the DLC will "fight those who would water down our agenda."

The president tried to be conciliatory at the meeting, and many members of the DLC seemed willing to try to work with him when possible and agree to disagree at other times. But Mr. McCurdy and others who insist upon a strictly conservative social and economic agenda may be at odds with Mr. Clinton for the next three years, because neither side seems willing to "water down" its positions.

It is uncertain how serious this breach is, but with the Democrats' slim majority in Congress likely to get even smaller after the 1994 midterm elections, Mr. Clinton will want any rift with the DLC to be as small as possible.

But as in so many other cases, the president is here, too, caught between two extremes. Even as he tries to reach out to the DLC, he is encountering criticism from the liberal wing of the Democratic Party, especially from its

chief spokesman, Jesse Jackson, and from the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), which now numbers 39 Democrats.

Mr. Jackson and the CBC opposed NAFTA. They want a much more liberal health care reform proposal than the administration has put forward and they oppose Mr. Clinton's centrist stand on welfare reform and crime. Every move that Mr. Clinton makes to appease the DLC alienates this block of liberal African American Democrats.

While Mr. Jackson is in open rebellion against the president, even threatening to run an independent presidential campaign (which would siphon liberal support from Mr. Clinton in much the way that Ross Perot's independent run hurt George Bush), the CBC is threatening to withhold critical support and Democratic votes for the president's proposed legislation. And with the votes on all his major initiatives expected to be close, the president cannot afford to write off these 39 votes.

All this points to a problem: liberals, and especially African Americans, feel abandoned by the Democratic president they played a crucial role in helping to elect (95 per cent of the African American vote went to Mr. Clinton in 1992).

It is ironic that even as the 1992 elections provided the CBC with its largest number of members in history, the political climate left the traditional positions of the CBC as weak as they have been in recent history. And the CBC's members will be holding meetings throughout the winter recess, attempting to plot a strategy for 1994 that emphasises their strength and seeks to halt what it perceives as the centrist drift of the administration.

So, as Mr. Clinton faces Congress in 1994, he comes forward with legislation that most Americans want to see passed. But passing it will not be easy because significant segments of his own party will pull and push in opposite directions to shape the legislation to meet their ideological beliefs.

Mr. Clinton will not find it easy to be a winning New Democrat in 1994.

U.N. galvanised by end of cold war but stopped cold by local warlords

By Rene Slama
Agence France Presse

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations emerged from the cold war galvanised by the prospect of global cooperation, but this year has shown how determined local warlords in Somalia, Haiti and Bosnia-Herzegovina can stymie even the combined force of the great powers.

This defeat was most clearly seen in the decision of U.S. authorities to order the amphibious landing craft Harlan County to steam out of Port-au-Prince's harbour on Oct. 11 because of protests by a small group of armed demonstrators, believed controlled by the country's military leaders.

The protesters were bent on preventing the disembarkment of U.S. and Canadian troops sent to train Haiti's security forces.

The small band proved more powerful than the United Nations, and symbolised how a well-meaning operation could be doomed by a lack of determination and coherence in the great powers unwilling to commit themselves to internal con-

flicts.

"Haiti has been a victim of the Somali syndrome," said a western diplomat here. Just days before the setback in Haiti, 18 U.S. peacekeepers in Somalia were killed in a clash with Mohammad Farah Aideed's troops.

If U.S. determination took a blow from those deaths, it was further undermined by the capture of a U.S. pilot and his appearance on U.S. television with a hattered face and broken body.

Nervous about the reaction from lawmakers never anxious to see the U.S. play the world's policeman, especially under U.N. command, President Bill Clinton made a 180-degree turn and urged the United Nations to suspend an arrest order issued for Aideed in June after the killing of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers.

The United States also transported Aideed to peace talks in Ethiopia in hopes that the various "Somali" factions could hammer out a peace accord before the U.S. deadline of late March for bringing its troops home.

But even with a peace agreement, there is the likelihood of

deterioration in Somalia, James Jonah, the U.S. under-secretary general for political affairs said last month.

If the fighting does erupt again, there will be no shortage of weaponry since most factions are believed to have hidden arms caches for the day when the international community withdraws.

Europe has shown a similar lack of resolve in Bosnia.

Some nations have backed and enforced economic sanctions on Belgrade. Others at the United Nations, especially under French General Philippe Morillon, have shown great courage in guaranteeing delivery of humanitarian aide.

But these efforts have not prevented the Serbs from nibbling away at Muslim-held territory and from showing up at the peace talks in Geneva in a position of strength.

Serbian leader Radovan Karadzic's followers have definitely taken advantage of this difference of opinion between the harder-line United States and European nations with troops on the ground, repeatedly calling the bluff of tough U.N. Security Council warnings.

"Each time the Americans

issued strong warnings to the Serbs, the French and the British deliberately undermined them by claiming that their troops on the ground would be endangered," said a diplomat here.

"Is public opinion really supportive of military intervention?" a European diplomat asks. "It's true, we haven't had a great success. But we tried. Today, in the ex-Yugoslavia, the means have not been enough to overcome the problems."

Cambodia has been the only exception — a real success in a year of disappointments and failures.

With the massive turnout in May elections, Cambodians dealt a hard blow to the Khmer Rouge who had threatened the peace process and called voters to boycott the polls.

The U.N. operation in Cambodia had been one of the largest ever undertaken. It succeeded because the peace agreement was a good one, deadlines were respected and because the five permanent U.N. Security Council members (Britain, China, France, and the United States) stuck together.

Who writes for who in the op-ed pages

By Richard Harwood

LONG AGO, one of my minor duties was overseeing what passed for the op-ed page of *The Washington Post*. It was an undemanding task. The material was supplied by a stable of famous syndicated columnists — Joe Alsop, Evans and Novak, Joe Kraft, William S. White and Clayton Fritchey, among others. It made of the op-ed page a closed shop: if you weren't in the club, your work had practically no chance of appearing.

For the columnists, it was a good deal. It wasn't such a good deal for the reader, who got a narrow and predictable menu served up every day by the same chefs.

Over the years, the page has evolved into a relatively eclectic intellectual forum. Along with George Will and David Broder, you may get on any given day the wit and wisdom of schoolteachers, lobbyists, car drivers and politicians of both high and low rank. The editors are inundated with offerings.

The New York Times in 1970 was the first paper to go down the road of "give the voiceless a voice if they write good."

David Shaw, media critic of *The Los Angeles Times*, has described some of the market forces that have brought change to newspaper opinion pages.

Most obvious was the cultural revolution of the 1960s that created a demand for a "new journalism." It brought forth alternative newspapers and magazines and a host of new writers. Their work contrasted starkly with the "predictable or boring" output of the establishment writers.

Before television, the leading pundits derived much of their authority from their intimate association with the great men and women of American and international politics. They defined our rulers for us. But television brought these great men and women into our living rooms, where we could examine their beauty spots and warts and make judgments of our own about their personalities and character.

The prosperity of the media over the past 20 years has been another force in the evolution of the opinion business. Their staffs and budgets expanded exponentially in the '70s and '80s, allowing them to grow their own pundits and put together new syndicates in competition with the Hearsts and other companies that had dominated the industry for a half-century or more.

It is a lucrative business. There are more than 4,000 daily newspapers around the world, plus thousands more high-school and college papers, weeklies, bi-weeklies and monthlies. They are all potential customers. Through mass distribution, a column can be sold to a small newspaper for as little as \$5 or \$10 a week: larger newspapers pay much

more. So a columnist with only a few hundred subscribers has no need of food stamps, even after splitting the gross with a syndicate.

Nevertheless, it is David Shaw's view that the best days of the pundits have passed. Their incomes rise at the same time their influence on public affairs evaporates in the face of rapid technological and cultural change: "In the media opinion-making machinery...punditry is just one more interchangeable part — and not a very important one at that."

"I suspect that the shaping of 'public opinion' is of little concern to many columnists and has little bearing on the 'influence' they wield. Their audience is the political class to which they belong, the people who dominate political life in America."

Meg Greenfield, editorial-page editor of *The Washington Post* and commander of its op-ed page, thinks the columnists are more significant, that their best work gets "absorbed in the bloodstream" of the people.

In a recent industry survey, 98 per cent of readers did not include columnists among their favourite newspaper offerings; fewer than half were regular readers. Shaw describes a friend who, after years of editorial writing, concludes that "nobody can change anybody's mind about anything, ever."

I suspect, however, that the shaping of "public opinion" is of little concern to many columnists, William Safire being a leading example, and has little bearing on the "influence" they wield.

Their audience is the political class to which they belong, the people who dominate political life in America.

Their columns are not sib-sister equivalents of the afternoon soap operas, but personal memos addressed to the White House, the State Department, the Congress and other power centres.

The writer is a former ombudsman of The Washington Post. This article is reprinted from The Washington Post.

LETTERS

Italian contribution

To the Editor:

Referring to the article "Graduation of mosaics restorers" (Jordan Times, Dec. 25/26, 1993), I would like to add that the Italian contribution to the said project — starting since 1990 — is the following:

— A grant of 2 billion Italian liras (\$1,300,000) within the framework of the Italian-Jordanian Technical Assistance Protocol. (The project, for the Italian side is supposed to last till August 1995).

— Seven scholarships to Jordanian trainees in Italy for courses at the School of Mosaics in Ravenna (three of them are still in Italy).

— Restoration of the mosaic of the Church of the Apostles in Madaba.

— Continuous presence of an Italian expert since March 1993.

The school activities started in October 1992, utilising facilities offered by the Jordanian Ministry of Education.

The Italian side, as soon as the premises are ready, will provide the furniture for the school, including the two laboratories, and the presence of other Italian experts.

The Madaba Mosaic School is a Jordanian school administered by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in cooperation with the Italian government and the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism.

Finally, I would like to stress that since 1977 the Italian government is sponsoring and financing several projects in Jordan (in cooperation with the competent Jordanian authorities) related to cultural preservation and conservation.

Chargé d'Affaires,
Dr. Diego Brasolli,
Italian embassy,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Features

Third World wary of big power Somalia pullout

By Buchizya Mseteka
Reuter

MOGADISHU — African and other Third World nations serving with the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Somalia are wary about the future after the big guns leave.

"The questions being asked back at home at the moment are like why should we stay and face death when powerful, far richer nations with the capability to do things are leaving?" a commander of an African contingent told Reuters.

"One shot at us or even one death from militia activity and we are out of this place," he added.

Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Botswana, Zambia and Uganda are among the African states which have sent troops to Somalia to try to contain clan fighting that destroyed the economy and exacerbated a raging famine.

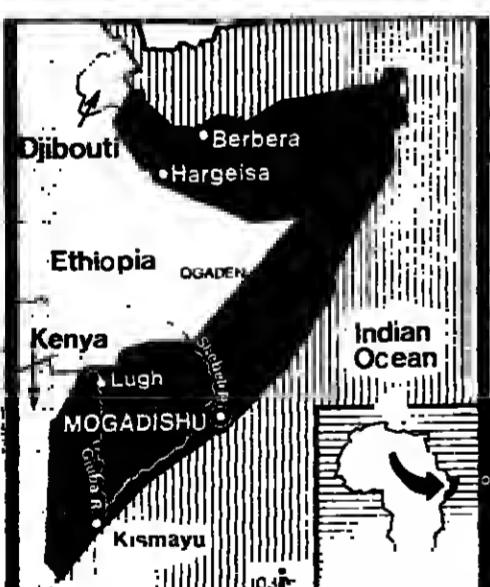
The western states which form the backbone of the 29,000-strong U.N. army — France, Belgium, Italy, Germany and the U.S. — are preparing to leave with all their airpower and ground armour. Troops from some Asian and European countries will also remain in the destroyed Horn of Africa country, but there is growing apprehension that the most ambitious U.N. peacekeeping force of recent times will be thrown into disarray by the withdrawal of the United States and other big military powers.

"The U.N. military operation will be left virtually naked and completely vulnerable to militia attacks," one U.N. military officer told Reuters. "Unless equipment, particularly air power, can be replaced quickly the whole operation risks being thrown off course or completely collapsing," he added.

On Monday the top U.S. military officer, General John Shalikashvili told the U.N. alliance to be ready to stand on its own feet after Washington and its allies are gone in March.

"You're on your own after March 31" was the message given by the chairman of the U.S. military Joint Chiefs of Staff to U.N. commanders in several meetings, U.N. officials said.

Asked before he flew back to Washington on Monday



Deng book offers glimpse into leader's mind

By Kathy Wilhelm
The Associated Press

BEIJING — Even as rumours of his imminent death swirl yet again, Deng Xiaoping has reached out from the seclusion of official retirement to offer the world a glimpse into his mind.

"Is it possible to quadruple (the) economy by the end of the century? I'd like to live until then, to see this achieved," he mused to colleagues in September 1989, contemplating living until age 96.

China had just been convulsed by popular protests, unmatched in four decades under communism, demanding an end to corrupt and autocratic rule. Soldiers had slain hundreds of protesters and the West was closing ranks against China, cutting off loans and aid.

Yet, in that conversation, reproduced in the newly published "Deng Xiaoping's selected works: volume three," Mr. Deng looked far ahead and stressed economic growth as the ultimate solution to China's domestic and foreign problems.

"This is what I lose sleep over," he said six months later, returning to the subject.

Economic growth is Mr. Deng's favourite theme

whether the U.S. would leave behind heavy equipment. Gen. Shalikashvili said he hoped some other nations would bring in their own.

"We hope some other countries can come in and bring in some equipment for the U.N. force. We will be taking with us most of our equipment," he told reporters.

But U.N. officials said the remaining countries lacked the resources and tools to do what Gen. Shalikashvili expected of them.

"Most of these countries, just like Somalia, rely on foreign aid and assistance. To leave them on their own out here is to kiss goodbye to the whole operation," an aid worker said.

In a sign that the U.S. was washing its hands of Somalia, Gen. Shalikashvili earlier told his troops: "If the U.N. mission doesn't turn out the way we pray it should, then so be it."

U.N. commanders fear that without the logistics, armour and equipment provided by the United States and other western nations, the alliance would collapse and the broken Horn of Africa country would plunge back to civil war.

U.N. commanders say they are worried by talk that Somalia's warring factions are rearming themselves and regrouping for battle after peace talks in Addis Ababa collapsed this month.

"They can see that the West is cutting and running. They know that in the end might will triumph and so they are busy shopping, busy strengthening their forces," a U.N. diplomat said.

Ferocious battles in October in which 18 U.S. Army Rangers were killed by warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed's militiamen, shattered U.S. public support for the intervention launched last December to open up food corridors.

President Bill Clinton later announced that all troops would leave by March 31. Directly linked to the U.S., moreover, other western countries also said they would leave.

"The West still has the capacity to save Somalia, to help the country prevent a return to war, to famine and to massive deaths we saw before December. But the political will is lacking," a U.N. political officer told Reuters.

Asked before he flew back to Washington on Monday

Two of the team died of exposure, one was killed by enemy fire, four were captured and one escaped.

The exploits of the patrol, dressed in Arab headgear, operating on foot with heavy packs and armed to the teeth, have entered special forces history.

In his book "Bravo two zero," the soldier, using the pseudonym Andy McNab, tells how his Special Air Service (SAS) regiment patrol was dropped behind enemy lines on Jan. 22, 1991, in the so-called "Scud triangle" where Iraq was firing missiles at Israel.

Spotted by a young Arab goatherd, the eight men were forced into a series of firefights in which they killed or injured 250 Iraqi soldiers in five days.

The operation brought together 300 SAS soldiers, its

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO, Egypt — Around the village of Abou Sir a storm rages whipping up long fingers of sand which draw a dull crackly veil over everything. In the sun's strange amber glow the pyramid of Abou Sir rises, shrouded in mystery. Although only about 75 kilometres from Cairo, the whole area is cut off from the tourist routes and is rich in unspoiled charm. Only a privileged few can claim to have seen this pyramid of the Old Kingdom (2686-2160 B.C.) close up — those whose sports or horse riding activities bring them to this area of the desert.

This forgotten area is the scene of a recent discovery that has thrilled archaeologists. Two of them — sent on a routine mission — discovered the tomb of a high-ranking general of Pharaoh Ramses II (1304-1237 B.C.). The tomb of Nacht Min is located near the village, of Abou Sir, where dwellings give way to the sands and rocks of the high plain of Ghizeh. The village cemetery, with its tombs gaily painted in sky-blue or yellow, is just a few metres away from the place where archaeologists Ezzat Al Ghindi, 32, and his assistant Sabri

Farag, 25, noticed the opening of a shaft which led them to their discovery.

The entrance to the tomb of Ambassador General Prince Nacht Min appears to be a temporary affair with its wooden planks and footbridges, all signs of an active dig. The wind blows stronger, coating sand over the silhouettes of the simple country houses and the green dome of a shrine. But the atmosphere inside the tomb is calm, silent and somewhat fresh. The two young archaeologists are at work with the foremen of the site. Tala Al Kreit and Mohammed Chehat, as well as some specialised workmen who are busy restoring the writing and paintings on the walls which have been cleared of sand.

"The writing tells us that the tomb belongs to Prince Nacht Min, chief commander of the war chariots of Ramses II and special envoy to foreign lands," said Ezzat Al Ghindi. "It is an interesting discovery because it is the only tomb of the New Kingdom (1567-330 B.C.) in the region of Abou Sir, where only tombs of the first six dynasties have been found."

Mr. Al Ghindi and Mr.

Farag are both graduates of the archaeology Department of Cairo's Faculty of Letters. They had never imagined that their research would lead them to this major discovery in the area of Abou Sir, which the authorities had designated to them. In fact, the aim of their work was to gather more data about the Old Kingdom, since the region is rich in traces of this period. During one of their routine missions there, the two noticed a circular pattern in the sand which turned out to be the mouth of a shaft. When they cleared away the sand, they went down into the tomb which was filled with sand up to 40 cm from the ceiling.

"We started straightaway emptying the sand from the first room. Then we opened another entrance and blocked up the shaft which was threatening to collapse. We found many fragments of murals and parts of the ceiling columns in the sand," explained Mr. Al Ghindi.

Smiling broadly, he cannot conceal his delight. For him and Mr. Sabri, the discovery of the tomb is a constant source of joy, despite their difficult working conditions. They do not have a car and access to their site is not an easy matter:



Workmen clear the causeway of the pyramid where a general of Ramses II may be buried at Abou Sir, a village in the Egyptian desert (WNL photo)

they juggle with different means of transport each morning followed by a few kilometres walking in open desert before they reach "their" tomb. They spend seven hours a day in the limited and heavy work of the underground vaults. They eat only when they return home in the evening, but their enthusiasm is undiminished.

"Anyway, Dr. Bakr, Director General of Antiquities, promised to assign one of his service vehicles to us," said Mr. Al Ghindi. And they truly deserve it: this Prince Nach

Min was clearly an important individual.

The cavalry had been the latest and most prestigious weapon of the pharaohs since the era of Tumosis III of the eighth dynasty. Horses were used exclusively for pulling light wooden two-wheeled chariots, mounted by two soldiers. One soldier drove the chariot and the other fought.

In the time of Ramses II, the Egyptian cavalry represented a rapid development weapon with many strategic advantages. In the reign of this bellicose pharaoh there were at least 15 foreign war campaigns in Asia (Phoenicia, Syria, Galilee, etc.) and it was no easy task to be the commander

of an army.

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Asia replaces Europe as region with biggest deficit with Japan

TOKYO (AFP) — Asia replaced the European Community (EC) as the region with the biggest current account deficit with Japan in the six months to June, the finance ministry said in a half-yearly report released Tuesday.

Apart from a bigger trade surplus with Asia and a smaller trade surplus with Europe, Japan also recorded sharp decline in its invisible trade deficit with Asia and saw its deficit in services trade with Europe swing into surplus.

"While the ministry publishes regional breakdowns of its merchandise trade surplus each month, details of Japan's services transaction with individual countries are released only every six months."

The sharply lower invisible trade deficit with Asia and the disappearance of the deficit with Europe reflected a surge in net inflows of investment income from both regions.

Such inflows, comprising interest and dividend payments,

grew by \$1 billion from Asia and \$3 billion from Europe.

The ministry said Japan's overall current account surplus with non-communist Asian nations widened from \$19.5 billion a year earlier to \$28 billion, or 41.6 per cent of the world total of \$67.3 billion.

Asia's newly industrialised economies of South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore together accounted for most of the surplus — \$25.8 billion, up from \$19.2 billion a year earlier.

Japan's current account surplus with the 12 European countries shrank from \$2.3 billion to \$18.9 billion, or 28.1 per cent of the total, and mainly reflecting a reduced surplus with Britain.

Among major European countries, Japan had surpluses of \$5.4 billion with Germany and \$2.4 million with Britain accompanied by deficits of \$436 million with France and \$6 million with Italy.

Japan's surplus with the United States meanwhile grew from \$19.7 billion to \$22.7 billion, amounting to 33.8 per cent of the world total and overtaking the imbalance with Europe. The current account surplus with Canada fell from \$1.4 billion to \$387 million in the same period.

The country's major current account deficits meanwhile dropped from \$1.51 billion to \$982 million with Australia, from \$1.95 billion to \$531 million with China and from \$703 million to \$572 million with Russia, the ministry said.

In services trade alone, Japan's deficit with the United States narrowed sharply from \$2.8 billion to \$920 million in the six months.

Net inflows of investment income from Asia jumped from \$314 million to \$1.3 billion and inflows from private transactions such as management fees and royalties leapt from \$579 million to \$1.2 billion. But Japan's travel and

transport deficits with the region were slightly smaller.

The invisible trade balance with Europe disappeared altogether, swinging from a \$440 million deficit to a \$2.5 billion surplus.

Net inflows of investment income from Europe jumped \$4.2 billion to \$7.3 billion and were almost entirely responsible for the shift. The travel deficit narrowed but this was more than offset by a bigger transport deficit and increased outflows to pay for other private transactions in Europe.

Japan's invisible trade deficit with the United States was virtually unchanged but shrank from \$1.9 billion to \$1.8 billion.

The modest decline reflected a decrease in the transport and travel deficits. But Japan saw reduced investment income from the United States unlike that from Asia and Europe, and net inflows dropped from \$7.8 billion a year earlier to \$7.3 billion in the six months.

"The defendants did not bother to look closely at Bank of Israel audits that pointed out time after time almost all the problems," Judge Yaakov Bazak said in the 322-page ruling.

According to Tuesday's Haaretz newspaper, Ehud Olmert, former health minister and today mayor of occupied Jerusalem, received an interest free loan of \$50,000. The daily did not say if the right-wing member of parliament had paid back the loan.

Most of the 10 directors live abroad, including Yoel Herzog, son of former president Chaim Herzog.

The receiver's lawyer Yossi Segev said the ruling set an important precedent for the conduct of company directors.

OECD sees low-inflation, modest growth in Britain

LONDON (R) — The British economy will enjoy modest growth over the next two years but the longer-term outlook depends on whether current low price and wage rises are here to stay or just an aberration, the OECD has said.

In its latest outlook, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) found fewer question marks hanging over Britain's recovery than it did six months ago.

Sustained, modest economic growth with low inflation is projected for the coming two years, the Paris-based think-tank, which groups the world's 24 richest countries, said.

In its report, it forecasts gross domestic product (GDP) growth of two per cent this year, above the government's 1.75 per cent forecast, and 2.9 per cent in both 1994 and 1995. The official forecast for 1994 is for expansion of 2.5 per cent. But the report was drawn up before tax rises and spending

cuts in the British government budget on Nov. 30 and this fiscal tightening has led the OECD to cut its forecasts.

OECD chief economist Kunihiro Shigahara welcomed the action to cut the budget deficit.

But he said: "Our staff worked out on a tentative basis the impact on the U.K. economy from this budget proposal and we think that probably growth will be reduced very slightly, say by a quarter of a percentage point or so (in 1994 and 1995)."

Mr. Shigahara said an interest rate cut before the budget would help counter the effect on demand and the pound's strength would help offset any inflationary impact of indirect tax rises.

The government wants to hold the underlying inflation rate, excluding home loan costs, within a one-to-four per cent range and aims to get it into the bottom half of that range before the next election,

due by mid-1997. Underlying inflation was 2.5 per cent in November — the lowest level since 1967.

The short-run inflation outlook is benign, due in large part to the legacy of the longest postwar recession," the OECD said, although it felt that inflation might stay above the middle of the target range.

"Over the medium term, sustained growth and job creation will depend on whether there has been a fundamental change in wage/price behaviour," the think-tank said.

It noted what it called "remarkable moderation in wage settlements" — earnings growth is at a 25-year low — but said that might be explained by a big jump in male unemployment in all regions and sectors during the 1990-1992 slump.

Labour market conditions are slowly strengthening and, like some independent economists, the OECD seems un-

convinced that pay settlements will remain low as unemployment drops.

However, that drop is not expected to be dramatic. The OECD forecasts an unemployment rate of 9.5 per cent for 1995, down only modestly from 10 per cent in 1994 and 10.3 this year.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment fell 36,100 in November to 2.82 million or 10 per cent of the workforce.

The think-tank said a key factor behind Britain's recovery from recession had been a big cut in interest rates since the pound quit the European exchange rate mechanism in late 1992.

"The course of interest rates will be influenced by progress on the fiscal side and by interest rate developments in continental Europe," it said.

Economists are expecting rates to fall in coming months from a current 5.5 per cent to reflect the effects of the budget.

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U.N. blames Bosnian army for sparking massive Serb attack

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The United Nations Tuesday blamed the Muslim-dominated Bosnian army for sparking an unprecedented Bosnian Serb artillery barrage on Sarajevo by launching an assault on a Serb-held district.

The charge came as the U.N. investigated Bosnian Croat accusations that government forces had committed atrocities in central Bosnia.

Meanwhile, hundreds of civilians waited in heavy snow for convoys they hoped would take them out of war-ravaged Sarajevo Tuesday as fighting raged across Bosnia.

The first eight buses carrying evacuees were seen departing from the city's railway station. They headed towards the Serb-held district of Lukavica a short distance from the capital and were escorted by Bosnian police and Bosnian Red Cross officials.

The hundreds waiting in the cold to escape from the besieged Bosnian capital on convoys organised by city authorities were mostly elderly, wounded or mothers with children.

If the buses crossed the front line successfully and were able to leave the besieged city, they were expected to return for one or two more loads of passengers.

The buses were due to shuttle 1,265 people out of Sarajevo to Lukavica, a few kilometres southwest of the capital.

New convoys for Serb and Croat areas were expected to form up in Lukavica.

The United Nations was planning two medical evacuations out of Sarajevo Tuesday, with seven patients and eight

of their relatives headed for Denmark, while eight others and nine accompanying relatives were destined for the United States.

In Sarajevo suburbs, sporadic shelling continued Tuesday following fierce fighting Monday between Serbs and Muslim-led Bosnian army troops, the U.N. said.

City hospitals reported at least seven dead and 52 wounded in Monday's fighting.

Maj. Van Biesbroeck said 686 shells hit government-held territory and 126 impacted Bosnian Serb ground Monday.

Most of the front line fighting overnight and Tuesday morning was in the western suburbs of Rajlovac and Stup. Maj. Van Biesbroeck said.

A Christmas-New Year's truce, agreed last week between all three combatants, was supposed to last through Jan. 15 but it has failed to stop the bloodshed in Bosnia between warring Serbs, Croats and Muslims.

The U.N. planned to investigate allegations that the Bosnian army killed captured Croat soldiers and may also have killed a number of Croat villagers. Maj. Van Biesbroeck said.

He said a U.N. patrol Sunday found the body of a Croat soldier in a village near the embattled central town of Gornji Vakuf.

"He was killed by an axe blow to the head and was without a doubt a prisoner," a duty officer at a U.N. Protection Force base in Kiseljak told Reuters.

British troops stationed in central Bosnia had begun an inquiry into Croat allegations that five Croat soldier died during their attacks.

tinees were burned to death in the same area, the U.N. military official said.

Croatian News Agency (HINA) reported Muslim-led forces attacked Croat positions at the village of Krcinevci, northeast of Vitez, Tuesday morning.

Croatian radio said Tuesday five civilians were killed and two wounded from Muslim shelling near the central Bosnian town of Travnik.

In the southern city of Mostar, Croats fired 40 rounds on besieged Muslims in the east sector of the town Tuesday and there was continuous small arms and machine-gun fire along the confrontation line. Maj. Van Biesbroeck said.

The central Bosnia offensive by the Muslim-dominated army could provoke Croatian intervention in Bosnia, Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic warned here Monday.

In a letter to European Community (EC) foreign ministers Mr. Granic said his "Muslim offensive against the last Croat enclaves is intensifying by the hour," and risked sparking "a large-scale Croatian-Muslim conflict with unforeseen consequences."

He called on the EC to press the Muslim-dominated Bosnian army to halt its offensive in central Bosnia in order to prevent a greater tragedy, the HINA reported.

Mr. Granic hinted Zagreb could withdraw concessions made to the Sarajevo authorities in talks on the division of the country into three ethnically-based mini-states, unless the Bosnian government ordered its forces to call off their attacks.

The Christmas and New Year truce between the Croatian army and rebel Croatian Serbs was largely respected, the commander of UNPROFOR in the former Yugoslavia said Tuesday.

However, breaches in the south of the breakaway Krajina region "did not augur well for the near future," said UNPROFOR's General Jean Cot in a statement released here.

The Dec. 24 to Jan. 15 truce was "generally respected," said Gen. Cot, adding that the "situation was relatively calm... The number of violations of the ceasefire having considerably diminished."

But Gen. Cot said breaches of the truce in the Licki Osik, Benkovac, Miranje, Novi Grad and Smiljevic areas were a cause for concern.

In Belgrade, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's Socialist Party (SPS) has fallen short of an overall majority after Sunday's repeat vote in 45 polling stations in Serbia, unofficial results showed.

The new round, repeated because of irregularities at the Dec. 19 poll, did not affect earlier standings.

The SPS will be the largest party in parliament with 123 seats, but this is below a clear majority in the 250-seat parliament needed to form its own government.

The opposition group DEPOS won 45 seats, the extreme nationalist Radical Party 39, Democratic Party of Serbia seven, Democratic Union of Vojvodina Hungarians five, and Albanian coalition two seats.



FRESH BREAD IN HIGH WATERS: An inhabitant of Esby, France, returned with fresh bread from the bakers to the flooded house where his canine friend awaits patiently for the waters of the River Marne to recede (AFP photo)

Ciampi puts his fate in hands of parliament

ROME (R) — Italian Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi put his job in the hands of the country's scandal-tainted parliament Tuesday, saying he would decide his fate after a no-confidence debate due next month.

"It's the government's duty to wait for the Jan. 12 debate," Mr. Ciampi said at his annual end-of-year news conference when asked whether he would resign over the motion.

A former governor of Italy's Central Bank who was appointed head of government last April, Mr. Ciampi said his administration was prepared to resign, having achieved its two main aims of piloting electoral reform and a 1994 austerity budget through parliament.

But he stressed that Italy needed a government which could guarantee stability, democracy and normality in the run-up to a watershed general election, expected early next year.

Boy shackled to bed for opening present early

CHICAGO (AFP) — An eight-year-old boy was apparently punished for opening a Christmas present too early by being shackled to a bed and left alone in a dark apartment, authorities said. The boy, whose name was not released, was shackled to a bunk bed by his ankle and dressed only in an undershirt when police found him in an unlit apartment, police said. An anonymous tipster telephoned police to report the abuse.

Madeline and David Wavel, the boy's mother and step-father, had taken an older brother and gone to visit their mother, said Dupage County State's Attorney James Ryan. Both children were placed with relatives. The couple was charged with child endangerment and reckless conduct, said Ryan. If convicted, they could be sentenced to a year in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

Japanese diver finds sunken Portuguese wreck

JAKARTA (AFP) — A Japanese diver working at a pearl ranch has found what is believed to be the wreck of an ancient Portuguese ship which sank off the spice island of Banda in the Moluccas, the Antara News Agency said.

Hironori Imanishi found the half-buried wreck at a depth of 20 metres off Banda Besar Island, in central Moluccas earlier this month, Antara said. Four cannons were found with the wreck, reported to be in a bad state, and one of them has since been lifted ashore and taken to the office of a local pearl cultivating company. A local official said the wreck could be 500 years old, dating back to the time the Portuguese first came here in trade spices.

Morrison loses manuscripts in house fire

GRAND VIEW, New York (AFP) — Nobel Literature Prize winner Toni Morrison said she lost all her manuscripts in a fire that burned down her country house at the weekend. Saturday's fire, which took more than 100 firefighters five hours to put out, may have been caused by an ember from a fireplace, Ms. Morrison's son Slade Morrison told firefighters. Asked which of her manuscripts had been destroyed in the fire that razed the four-storey house near the Hudson River on Christmas Day, the 1993 Nobel prizewinner for literature said she had lost them all, including her earliest writings.

Germans rush to exchange gifts

BONN (AFP) — Department stores and gift shops were taken by storm Monday as Germans indulged in their favourite post-Christmas treat — exchanging presents they do not like or that conked out before the holidays were over. German stores traditionally exchange clothes, hi-fi material, teddy bears or household appliances for other items or refunds as long as the merchandise is returned with the proper receipt. One in four presents is thus returned to the store where it was bought, generally before the end of the year, and salesclerks spend up to three hours a day just for post-Christmas swaps, according to the Retail Trade Federation. Monday many shops also offered savings of up to 50 per cent.

Police turn tables on radio eavesdroppers

DONCASTER, England (R) — Police in northern England turned the tables on radio hams who eavesdrop on police radio by issuing a spoof broadcast of aliens landing nearby and then arresting those who turned up to see the "space-men." South Yorkshire Police Force launched "Operation Marconi" when they suspected criminals were cashing in on information gleaned from the airwaves. The Guardian daily newspaper reported. The eavesdroppers "could hardly believe their ears — aliens were invading planet Earth... Doncaster to be exact," the report, citing the latest edition of a local police magazine, said. It said several people were arrested and charged with acting illegally on information in police broadcasts.

Scanning equipment can be legally purchased for a few pounds and it is not illegal to eavesdrop on police broadcasts.

Seoul casts doubts on N. Korean 'bomb'; U.S. threatens U.N. move

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea cast doubt Tuesday on a report that Pyongyang had already built a nuclear bomb, as Washington threatened to take the matter to the U.N. Security Council and Japan offered to mediate in the dispute.

South Korean President Kim Young-Sam said there was no proof that North Korea had managed to make atomic weapons, although "it has a strong desire to develop them."

"We have accurate information on the nuclear issue. So far we cannot say that North Korea has nuclear weapons... we are exchanging information and are in close consultation with Washington (on the matter)," Mr. Kim was quoted by Yonhap News Agency as

saying.

In Washington, meanwhile,

a State Department spokeswoman said the United States would have no alternative but to go to the Security Council to demand sanctions against Pyongyang if negotiations failed to resolve the dispute.

But she also said the U.S. expected its dialogue with Pyongyang to continue, as a special envoy of U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali told Seoul that the North saw dialogue with the United States as the sole way to end the problem.

In Tokyo, where concern has spiralled since Pyongyang threatened in March to quit the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT), Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata said Japan was ready to play a mediatory role

Russian premier: Reforms will go ahead

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was quoted Tuesday as saying Russia's market reforms would not be altered after reformers suffered a setback in this month's parliamentary elections.

Anna Tyagunenko, press secretary to Economics Minister Yegor Gaidar, told reporters that Mr. Chernomyrdin assured leaders of the Russia's Choice electoral bloc Monday "there could not be any talk about reconsideration of the reform course."

Speaking by telephone, she said these were the words used by Mr. Chernomyrdin when he summed up Monday's meeting. There was no immediate comment from Mr. Chernomyrdin himself.

Russia's Choice, led by Mr. Gaidar and other reformist ministers, failed to win a clear majority in the Dec. 12 elections and the new parliament will be roughly split equally between reformers, conservatives and ultra-nationalists.

As in previous incidents, the hijackers in Tuesday's incident would be detained in Taiwan for trial on air piracy charges. Interior Minister Wu Poh-Hsiung told reporters. Their daughter was also expected to stay on the island.

China has demanded the repatriation of the 12 Chinese asylum-seekers who hijacked planes to Taiwan in the pre-

10th Chinese plane hijacked to Taiwan

TAIPEI (R) — A Chinese couple, travelling with their six-year-old daughter, hijacked a Chinese airliner to Taiwan Tuesday and asked for asylum — the 10th such hijacking since April.

The couple, brandishing a fake bomb, forced a Fujian Airlines plane carrying 42 passengers and eight crew members to land at Taipei International Airport and surrendered to Taiwanese authorities, an airport spokesman said.

The propeller-driven, Chinese-built Yun-7 plane was on a domestic flight from the city of Ganzhou in southern China to the southeastern coastal city Xiamen when it was hijacked, he said.

As in previous incidents, the hijackers in Tuesday's incident would be detained in Taiwan for trial on air piracy charges. Interior Minister Wu Poh-Hsiung told reporters. Their daughter was also expected to stay on the island.

China has demanded the repatriation of the 12 Chinese asylum-seekers who hijacked planes to Taiwan in the pre-

vious nine incidents, and the issue has become a major source of tension between the two sides.

A third round of bilateral talks in Taipei last week failed to reach agreement on a pact under which Taiwan would send the hijackers back.

China, which has viewed Taiwan as a renegade province since the end of the civil war in 1949, has refused to recognise Taiwan's jurisdiction over the hijackers.

Police identified the couple as Luo Changhua, 38, and his wife Wang Yuying, 34.

They were quoted by a government statement as saying they had come to Taiwan to seek shelter because the Chinese Communists ignored the rule of law and demolished their home four months ago.

Luo carried a bottle containing batteries, a nail, a box of matches and wire, claiming it was a bomb. Wang handed a note to the pilot threatening to blow up the plane, police said.

Taiwanese state radio reported that another Chinese airliner on a domestic flight

veered towards Taiwan Tuesday in an apparent hijacking but then turned back towards China.

The report, which quoted unnamed sources, could not be immediately confirmed.

Taiwan has said it is willing in principle to send hijackers back to China to deter future incidents, but insists on reserving the right to exclude some of them if it determines they have valid political or religious motives.

China has accused Taiwan of indirectly encouraging the hijacking by failing to send suspects back immediately. Two hijackers have been sentenced to 10-year prison terms in Taiwan and the rest are awaiting trial.

Beijing said Monday that pilots would be instructed in new, tougher tactics to thwart hijackers, without giving details.

Last Thursday China sacked its civil aviation chief, Jiang Zhuping, at the end of a year which saw at least three air crashes as well as the hijackings.

Japan parliament ends year without fresh timetable

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan's parliament ended the year in deadlock Tuesday, clouding prospects that Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's package of political reforms can be enacted by a parliamentary session deadline in January.

Parliamentary officials said Mr. Hosokawa's coalition, which is staking its future on passing the reforms into law by the end of January, failed to agree with the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on when to resume sessions.

The coalition argued for parliamentary debate to open on Jan. 4, after a six-day break.

The opposition LDP rejected the date, saying it wanted to take a recess until Jan. 9, inviting coalition accusations of delaying tactics.

Mr. Hosokawa backed up his Aug. 25 promise by saying he would take political responsibility if he failed to keep it, meaning he would either step down or call snap elections.

He said the new deadline was Jan. 29, the end of the current 135-day session.

Political reforms have been dominating parliamentary debate, postponing badly-needed

measures to boost the economy which is suffering the worst recession since World War II.

Many parliamentary aides said lawmakers were scurrying to their home districts to prepare for a possible election campaign. But the top government spokesman said those in the coalition parties should stop such talk.

"The economy is in the very bottom and we just held elections half a year ago," Masayoshi Takemura told a convention of his party, the Harbinger New Party.

"It is highly improper of us to speak of (holding elections)," he said. "From the viewpoint of public opinion, we must avoid this at all cost."

Takashi Yonezawa, another leader of one of the parties in the eight-group coalition, also said snap elections would hurt the country.

"It is totally senseless to dissolve parliament when the economy is in such a serious state."

Meanwhile, talk of snap general elections was fire — a custom-

ary phrase which says anything can happen in Japan's unpredictable politics: "It's pitch dark an inch ahead of your nose."

Meanwhile, the leader of the largest party in Japan's ruling coalition told its members Tuesday to be ready for a possible snap election to be called in January.

"General elections may be held next year," Tomiochi Murayama, chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), told a party meeting.

"It is highly improper of us to speak of (holding elections)," he said. "From the viewpoint of public opinion, we must avoid this at all cost."

Mr. Hosokawa might do if he failed to get his political reform bills approved before the present extended parliamentary session ends on Jan. 29.

Mr. Murayama said that a general election was undesirable at present in view of the urgent efforts needed to achieve economic recovery. But he said it was not possible to predict

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1993

Beckenbauer to restore Bayern glory

MUNICH (R) — Germany's favourite soccer son Franz Beckenbauer took over Monday at Bayern Munich, the club he captained to three successive European Cup triumphs in the 1970s.

The way for the "Kaiser" to try to restore the glory days was cleared by the resignation earlier in the day of Bayern coach Erich Ribbeck.

Beckenbauer, the only man to win the World Cup as captain and coach, is expected to start his new job next week, but he may only stay until the end of the season, team sources said.

It is believed Bayern's first choice was Monaco's Arsene Wenger. Although he turned the German down, the club is still thought to be interested in him.

Ribbeck told a news conference Monday he had to take responsibility for the team's poor performance in this season's UEFA Cup when they were surprisingly beaten in the second round by England's Norwich City.

But he disputed any suggestion he was giving Beckenbauer a second-rate team.

"I'm not handing over a team of nobodies or a pile of rubble, as some people might think," he said.

"This is a complete team that's up there at the top. Unfortunately, I must say clearly — and this may in the end be the reason why I'm leaving — that it failed in the second round of the UEFA cup."

After a sticky period following the UEFA Cup disappointment, Bayern did well enough to stand third as the German League went into its winter break.

Bayern have won the Bundesliga a record 12 times. But their last championship was in 1990.

For a club which once dominated Europe, their inability to secure a place in the Champions' Cup in recent seasons has been immensely frustrating and the defeat by Norwich was a bitter blow.

As club vice-president, Beckenbauer will be aware of the problems facing him, but his pedigree is unquestioned.

As a player he won a record 103 caps for his country, captained West Germany to World Cup victory in 1974 and to the European title two years earlier.

In 1990 he coached the German team to their triumph in Italy.

At club level he steered Bayern Munich to three successive European Cup victories from 1974 to 1976 and won the World Club Cup, the European Cup Winners' Cup and eight domestic trophies.

He was West German Footballer of the Year a record four times and twice European Footballer of the Year.

After his World Cup success in 1980, Beckenbauer had a spell with Marseille, nominally as technical director but the arrangement only lasted a few months.



Paris-Dakar Rally sets off

PARIS — The Paris-Dakar Rally, which this time will finish back in the French capital, started Tuesday morning from under the Eiffel Tower. Two-hundred and fifty-nine teams — 96 cars, 96 motorcycles and 29 trucks — started the event. The first stage took the rally caravan to Bordeaux

with the first four kilometre special section Tuesday afternoon in the Yonne region of central France. The 13,379 kilometre race finishes on the Champs Elysees on Jan. 16. The photograph shows French driver Pierre Charmasson at the wheel of his Toyota at the start of the rally (AFP photo).

Maguire collects 2-day ban after King George VI Chase victory

LONDON (Agencies) —

Adrian Maguire landed his 100th winner of the season Monday, capturing the valuable King George VI Chase on 9-2 chance Barton Bank — and was promptly banned for two days.

While the huge holiday crowd thrilled to Maguire's latest exploits, the Kempton Park stewards took a less charitable view, banning the Irishman for excessive use of the whip.

French-trained favourite the Fellow, the mount of Adam Kondrat and winner of British Jumping's winter highlight for the last two years, finished third behind Bradbury Star — and was promptly banned for two days.

Despite the rules, stewards can consider action against jockeys who hit their mounts more than five times after the last fence.

Maguire was said to have struck Barton Bank 10 times and Murphy hit his horse seven. Stewards' Secretary Jeremy Ker said: "They were hitting their mounts with every stride and not giving them time to respond."

Under the rules, stewards can consider action against jockeys who hit their mounts more than five times after the last fence.

Maguire said: "We didn't abuse our horses but the stewards have a job to do."

Despite the ban, winning trainer David Nicholson warmly praised Maguire. He said: "I've been around racing since 1945 and he's the best I've seen. That's not an accolade, it's the truth."

"I left the tactics to Adrian and he did everything right. I was lucky enough to win a Cheltenham Gold Cup (in 1988) with Charter Party but this horse means more to me and he could go to Cheltenham without another run."

The horse is now unbeaten in three races this season and is an 8-1 chance for the Gold Cup in March.

Young Hustler made the early running in Monday's three-mile (4.8 km) test.

Barton Bank joined Young Hustler early on the first circuit

ago when he won the Gold Cup on Cool Ground. Maguire's uncompromising approach on the big occasion landed him with a ban.

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Millions face World Cup 'sickness'

LONDON (R) — Millions of European soccer fans will get a dose of their favourite illness next summer — late night World Cup sickness.

Insomniacs fans are going to need plenty of stamina, plus flasks of black coffee, to keep them going through the first eight days — or nights — of the tournament when there is a midnight or half-past midnight

kick-off — every night.

A total of only 11 matches out of the 52 in the month-long competition will kick off so late for Europeans — but that still means millions of soccer fans across the continent from Dublin to Athens watching live action half the night of games taking place up to 11,000 kilometres away.

International Football Federation (FIFA) spokesman Guidotognini said: "Only 11 of the 52 matches kicking off so late is not a bad ratio."

"Of course that might well mean millions of people going to work bleary-eyed the next day — but that is all part of the World Cup 'sickness' which fans love every four years.

"Oo a more serious note, both FIFA and the organisers are very pleased with the finalised kick-off times.

"Most of the matches will kick off early in the afternoon or evening and the American organisers have done as much as humanly possible to accommodate all the conflicting interests — the fans in the stadiums, European television and also other fans around the world in Africa and Asia.

"For fans in Asia the late

night matches in Europe will be breakfast time for them. But people are used to this. It is all part of the World Cup."

Jim Trecker, chief press spokesman for the organising committee said: "We think we have a very good balance of kick-off times. Obviously we can't please everybody, but we have known about the problems caused by our different time zones for six years and we think we have coped with them all."

The opening match between holders Germany and Bolivia will kick off at 1400 local time (2000 GMT) in Chicago Friday, June 17.

The late night marathons will begin the same evening when Spain kick off against South Korea at 1830 local time (0030 GMT) in Dallas.

The other first round matches scheduled for late kick-offs are: Colombia v Romania (June 18) Cameroon v Sweden (June 19) Netherlands v Saudi Arabia (June 20), Bulgaria v Nigeria (June 21), United States v Colombia (June 22), South Korea v Bolivia (June 23), Sweden v Russia (June 24), Argentina v Bulgaria (June 30) and Greece v Nigeria (June 30).

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The correct falsecard is the jack of diamonds, but even the ten would have left East with a problem. That would have meant the opening lead was either K 10, 6, or K 5, less probable. East would have to guess whether to continue with a diamond or try to cash whatever tricks in spades the defenders were due.

There's more to falsecarding than simply playing the card nearest your thumb. A thoughtful falsecard can be more revealing than playing an honest card. Look at this hand from a club game in Buffalo, N.Y.

Four hearts was the popular contract, usually reached via the direct route shown above. The universal lead was the singleton diamond, taken by East's ace. Invariably, declarer falsecarded with the king.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

'Malaysia not ready for links with Israel'

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad said Tuesday that Kuala Lumpur would not establish diplomatic relations with Israel unless it declared a state for the Palestinian people. "Although there are Gulf states which have established diplomatic relations with Israel, we're not prepared because many things have yet to be done by Israel before we can accord it our recognition," Mr. Mahathir was quoted by the Bernama news agency as saying. He said that the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord in September was an "astounding development" but was not adequate because "there was no declaration on the part of Israel for a Palestinian state."

Jewish boy accused of killing Arab

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A 16-year-old Jewish settler was charged Tuesday with the murder of a Palestinian farmer shot dead while ploughing his field in the occupied West Bank, Israeli army radio said. It said police were holding the boy and two other Israelis from Shilo settlement in connection with the killing on Dec. 9 of Mohammad Abu Awad, 51, from nearby Turmus Ayya village. Police submitted an indictment against the boy in court accusing him of murder and asking that he remain in jail throughout the legal proceedings, the radio said. Police were considering charging the other settlers, aged 35 and 33.

Kuwait gives Iraqis 6 more days to leave

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has given Iraq an extra six days, until Dec. 31, to evacuate Iraqis who ended up living in Kuwait when the United Nations redrew the border, a Foreign Ministry official said on Tuesday. The Iraqis began leaving in mid-December and Iraq had originally undertaken to evacuate them all by Dec. 25, said the official. "The United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) told us Iraq wanted to extend the deadline until the end of December 1993 and we accepted," he said. "They (the Iraqis) said residents of Umm Qasr (town) could not finish removing their belongings and they needed a few more days," the official added.

Sudan coup trial adjourned

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The trial of 29 Sudanese accused of plotting to overthrow the government of President Omar Hassan Al Bashir was adjourned Tuesday until Jan. 13 to allow the prosecution time to notify absentee defendants to return to Sudan. Seventeen of the 29 accused are abroad, mainly in Egypt, and failed to heed an earlier request by the attorney general to report to investigators for interrogation on the charges raised against them. The 12 defendants present for the trial were arrested earlier this year on charges of plotting to destroy strategic installations and assassinate prominent political figures to pave the way for an armed invasion by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army. The 17 absentee defendants include former Sudanese army Commander-in-chief General Fathi Ahmad Ali and former security chief Brigadier Al Hadi Bashir, a leading figure in the Cairo-based Sudanese opposition.

Minib proves Neanderthals had 'living spaces'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Researchers have authenticated what archaeologists have long believed: Cavemen divided their living areas into distinct 'areas of activity,' a scientist said Monday. "They differentiated between cooking and living space and working space," said Stephen Weiner, a chemist at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot. He said the findings were based on the use of a portable laboratory used in a cave south of Haifa, where the skeleton of a Neanderthal man was found in 1983. Archaeologists have long believed that distinct piles of animal bones and ashes found at cave sites indicated differentiated activity spaces for the cavemen who lived between 100,000 and 40,000 years ago: Cooking, garbage dumps and living areas. Other scientists theorised that other bones were absent only because they had been dissolved by ground water. The Weizmann Institute developed a personal computer, software and a portable infrared spectrometer to analyse mineral deposits at cave sites. Their findings at Mt. Carmel showed that the theories of distinct bone piles were correct.

Kurd militants threaten travellers

BONN (R) — Militant Kurds Tuesday warned European tourists to stay out of Turkey or risk death in guerrilla attacks. Guerrillas fighting for Kurdish autonomy from Turkey would launch a campaign against tourism in the spring, Kani Yilmaz of the Kurdish National Liberation Front (ERNK) told the German magazine Stern. "I warn all Europeans: Anybody who travels to Turkey puts his life at risk," Mr. Yilmaz said in an interview. "Every German mark that a tourist spends in Turkey means the death of one person in Kurdistan. That is why the tourism industry is a serious target for us."

Beirut gunman kills three brothers

BEIRUT (R) — A Lebanese man opened fire from a submachinegun on a family in Beirut's eastern sector Tuesday, killing three brothers before he was shot dead by a fourth brother, police said. Salim Ikhlael Salameh burst into the home of the shehadeh family in Beirut's suburb of Sin Al Fil, killing the three and wounding their mother and fourth brother, they said. The fourth brother, Mohammad, opened fire from his pistol at the gunman killing him. Mohammad and his mother were taken to hospital. The motive behind the killings was not immediately known but an initial police report said Salameh was deranged.

Strike closes Cyprus airports

NICOSIA (AFP) — The Cypriot airports of Larnaca and Paphos were paralysed Tuesday by a public sector strike over wages, as banks also stayed closed in a Christmas dispute. The civil servants' union Pasidi called the 24-hour strike to demand five per cent increase for their 10,500 members, retroactive to 1992. The government has agreed on condition that salaries are frozen for the next three years, but Pasidi refuses. Banks were closed Monday and Tuesday because of a dispute with managers over holidays after Christmas fell on a weekend.

Kuwait appoints first woman ambassador

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait had named a woman ambassador for the first time in its history, officials here said Tuesday. Nabilah Al Molla, sworn in Monday, was appointed ambassador to Zimbabwe. A graduate of the American University of Beirut, Ms. Molla joined the foreign ministry in 1968 and served for 10 years at the Kuwaiti mission to the United Nations in New York. Women do not have the vote in Kuwait.

One survivor in Armenian plane crash

MOSCOW (R) — A 23-year-old man was thrown clear and survived when an airliner crashed in western Armenia late Sunday in an accident in which at least 35 other people died, Russia's Interfax news agency reported Tuesday. News of the crash emerged on Monday but the Interfax report provided the first indication of a survivor. I quoted the head of an Armenian government investigation commission as saying the young man fell from the tail area of the AN-26 as it broke up on landing in thick fog at Gyumri near the border with Turkey. Commission Chairman Stepan Badalyan said the twin-prop aircraft's tail hit the ground first after it missed the runway of the airport. It then burst into flames. Mr. Badalyan said the airliner was loaded with a supply of fuel for its return trip as well as two cars which had full tanks of petrol and this had contributed to the inferno.



DEEP DUTCH WATERS: Frans Maassens (left) and an unidentified employee wade through high water in one of Maassens' Greenhouse Tuesday. Most of the damage to horticultural business caused by recent

floods in the Limburg region will not be covered by insurance policies. The damage in the Netherlands is estimated at more than \$100 million (AFP photo)